



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/761,594	01/16/2001	Hans-Jurgen Hacke	GR 98 P 4137 P	5815

7590 05/13/2003

LERNER AND GREENBERG, P.A.
POST OFFICE BOX 2480
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480

EXAMINER

HARAN, JOHN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1733

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2003

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/761,594

Applicant(s)

HACKE ET AL.

Examiner

John T. Haran

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 11-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11, 12 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 13-17 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/21/03 has been entered.

Declaration

2. The declaration filed on 4/21/03 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the Farnworth et al (U.S. Patent 6,369,600) reference.

The declaration made by Jurgen Gamalski is ineffective because declarations must be made by all inventors of the subject matter claimed (See MPEP 715.04). The inventors of record are Hans-Jurgen Hacke and Klaus-Peter Galuschki.

The invention declaration/disclosure submitted as corroborating evidence is also ineffective to establish conception, diligence, or reduction to practice prior to July 6, 1998 because the document is in German. All that the Examiner can ascertain from looking at the invention declaration/disclosure is that it is signed by the inventors and appears to be dated January 26, 1998. Examiner cannot determine whether the invention declaration/disclosure contains evidence that Applicants reduced the claimed invention to practice.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5 and 13-17 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akagawa et al (EP 734,059) in view of Farnworth et al (U.S. Patent 6,639,600), Akram et al (U.S. Patent 6,107,109) and IBM Technical Bulletin, "Solder Plated Resin Ball" pages 463-464.

Akagawa et al are directed to a chip sized semiconductor device and a process for making it comprising providing chips (32), placing electrical connection pads on the chip (36), applying a first insulating layer (38) such that the electrical connection pads are left partially uncovered, producing interconnects (40) on the first insulating film leading from the electrical connection pads (36) to a base region (43) of external connection elements; applying a second insulating layer (42) on the interconnects and the first insulating layer that is thicker than the first insulating layer; forming openings (44) in the second insulation layer above the base regions; and placing solder balls (46) in the openings and attaching them to the base regions. Akagawa et al are silent towards the balls being plastic balls having a metallic coating.

It is well known and conventional in the semiconductor art to use plastic balls having a metallic coating and an outer solder coating in place of pure solder balls

Art Unit: 1733

because the plastic is more reliable to withstand thermal stress, as shown for example in IBM Technical Bulletin, "Solder Plated Resin Ball" page 463. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the resin ball of the IBM Technical Bulletin in the method and product of Akagawa et al in order to increase resistance to thermal stress.

Akagawa et al are also silent towards bonding the balls to the base region by placing a conductive material in the opening and attaching the ball to the connection pads via the conductive material. Akagawa et al teach bonding the solder ball to the base region through a reflow process (Column 9, line 3). It is well known and conventional to use conductive material, such as conductive adhesive, to attach balls to a surface in place of a reflow process, as shown for example in Farnworth et al (Column 11, lines 61-64) and Akram et al (Column 7, lines 43-45). The two are alternative expedients and it would have been obvious to use either and only the expected results would be achieved. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place conductive material in the opening and attach a resin ball coated with metal to the base region via the conductive material in the method and product of the Akagawa et al.

It is also noted that one skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that the product derived from the method of Akagawa et al, as modified above, would be capable of being soldered to a printed circuit board and of being mechanically decoupled from the printed circuit board.

Art Unit: 1733

Regarding claims 2, 17, and 23-24, one skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that the relative thickness of the insulation layers depends upon a variety of factors and that the second insulation layer needs to be sufficiently thick to provide openings of adequate size to fill with conductive material to bond the balls to the chip. One skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that the thickness of the second insulation layer in comparison with the first insulation layer is within the purview of one skilled in the art.

Regarding claim 4, it is well known and conventional to using a doctor blade for introducing conductive adhesive into openings. It would have been obvious to use conventional means for introducing the adhesive into the openings in the method of Akagawa et al, as modified above.

Regarding claim 5, Akagawa et al teach forming the chips on a wafer and dicing the wafer after the assembly process is complete (Column 9, lines 48-57).

Regarding claims 13 and 19, Farnworth et al and Akram et al teach using conductive adhesive and curing it.

Regarding claims 14-15 and 20-21, completely metal balls and metallized plastic balls are both well known and conventional and it would have been obvious to use either.

Regarding claims 16 and 22, one skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that the opening in the second insulation layer of Akagawa et al is circular in shape to accommodate the ball and that adhesive placed in the opening would assume a cylindrical shape. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

Art Unit: 1733

time the invention was made to place conductive adhesive in the opening and thereby assume a cylindrical shape in the method and product of the Akagawa et al.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 4/21/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As noted above the declaration filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 is ineffective to overcome the use of Farnworth et al. It is additionally noted that newly cited Akram et al (U.S. Patent 6,107,109) has the same teachings as Farnworth et al and its filing date of December 18, 1997 is prior to Applicant's apparent reduction to practice on January 26, 1998.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **John T. Haran** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-0052**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (8 - 5) and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael W. Ball can be reached on (703) 308-2058. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

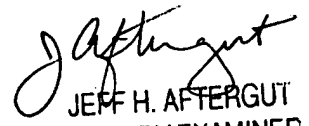
Art Unit: 1733

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



John T. Haran

May 12, 2003



JEFF H. AFTERGUT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300